

San Diego DX Club Bulletin



June 2012



APRIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 2012
AT THE SIZZLER STEAK HOUSE
3755 MURPHY CANYON ROAD, SUITE S
SAN DIEGO, CA 92123
SOCIAL HOUR: 5:00 PM DINNER: 5:30 PM
MEETING: 6:30 PM
Program: Malpelo Island, HK0NA
By: Bob Grimmick, N6OX

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A Word from the Prez . . .

John Barcroft, K6AM



Congrats to Wild Bill, WB6BFG, the SDDXC DX'er of the year. Bill's meteoric rise in the standings plus his DXpedition activities made him the top choice for the honor for the calendar year 2011. We surprised him with his plaque at Visalia at the Saturday night banquet.

The WPX CW contest happens this week. For all you youngsters out there who are disappointed because all you could get was a weird 2 x 1 call, this contest is for YOU! As far as you know, WPX stands for "Weird Prefix." Your one-of-a-kind prefix becomes a rare MULTIPLIER! So please get on and work us. I'll be NY6N. CU in the pileups.

Elections are coming up in June. We will accept nominations from the floor (or the chairs for those of you seated) at this month's meeting. In addition, your nominating committee will offer a slate of nominees. Anyone with a desire to join the board of directors in some capacity and give something back to your club needs to speak up now.

I was watching "60 Minutes" the other night and heard the ex-CIA guy commenting on how Yemen and Somalia are the new hotbeds of Al Qaeda terrorist activity. So after the show, I went into the shack to try to work the 7O and 6O. Apparently that number followed by an "O" combination is like honey to the bad guys. We've got some pretty gutsy DXpeditioners out there. Hope you worked them on a few bands/modes you needed.

73, John

DX Is!!

The San Diego DX Club (SDDXC) is among the best known and most highly respected DX clubs in the United States. Since it's founding in 1946, SDDXC members have been on both sides of the pile-ups with DXpeditions and a fair share have achieved "Top of the Honor Roll" status. If you're interested in chasing DX, contesting, exchanging stories or just rubbing elbows with fellow "Big Guns" or "Little Pistols", you'll feel right at home at one of our club meetings. Join us at our next meeting. Visitors are particularly welcome!

Secretary and Treasurer's Reports



San Diego DX Club April 25, 2012 Meeting Minutes

A re-cap of the Visalia International DX Convention was given (record attendance, 7ft tall Elvis – our own Noel, AG6AK, registration desk and prize room staffed by SDDXC volunteers).

Guests: From CO - Phil, N0KE, from Sweden - Tord, SM3EVR (first time to CA), Chris, SM3CZS (first time to US), Jan-Eric, SM3CER (WRTC referee – first time to Visalia and San Diego) and Thomas, SM3DMP (first time to Visalia).

There was no new business.

SANDARC is beginning to plan the 2014 Convention.

"Top 10" were announced for 17 and 12 meters.

A Round Table discussion ensued.

Bud N7CW gave a presentation about his participation in the EL2A CQWW DX CW contest effort.

(Thanks to K6KAL and AF6WF for taking copious notes in the absence of the Secretary)

NOTE: The Club has badges ready for K1GR & N7VM.

Please contact N6UWW for delivery.

Treasurer's Report

Statement Balance 30-March 2012	\$4,654.90
Subtractions	\$17.23
(WB6BFG March meeting speaker's dinner)	
Statement Balance 30-April, 2012	\$4,637.67
Outstanding checks	\$31.00
(N7CW April meeting speaker's dinner)	
	320.00
(Marsh Affinity Group insurance premium)	
Adjusted Balance	\$4,286.67
Respectfully submitted,	

73, Ellen

The SDDXC Top 10 John, K6AM



TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 17 METERS

5/12	5/11	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	W6YA	40	?	?	336	+1
2.	2.	K6AM	40	324	329	331	+3
3.	3.	N6ND	40	253	255	327	+4
4.	4.	N7CW	40	299	299	323	+14
5.	7.	K0XB	39	281	283	293	+9
6.	6.	N6CW	25	?	231	292	+7
7.	9.	W6YOO	37	273	277	277	+9
8.	10.	W6YI	38	197	199	271	+16
9.	8.	K6XT	40	183	183	269	-
10.	5.	K6ZH	35	202	204	242	NEW

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 12 METERS

5/12	5/11	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	W6YA	40	?	?	321	+4
2.	3.	K6AM	40	304	309	314	+7
3.	2.	N6ND	40	234	236	314	+6
4.	5.	N7CW	39	222	222	277	+11
5.	6.	N6CW	39	?	192	265	+3
6.	10.	K0XB	33	205	207	235	+92
7.	9.	W6YI	33	143	145	226	+60
8.	7.	W6YOO	36	222	225	225	+6
9.	8.	K6XT	40	128	128	219	-
10.	-	K6ZH	34	140	142	193	NEW

On 17, almost everyone reported in with a healthy jump. Over on 12, a full slate of jumps as well. Rick, K0XB heads back to Minn. with 92 new ones strapped to his luggage rack, while Jim, W6YI checks in with 60 new ones. Nice work gents. As the new cycle dawns, these bands are starting to show some life. There were a few EU openings on 12 in the past few months. 17 remains a very viable band and should continue to get much better in the years to come.

Both of these lists are much easier to break into than the other bands. If you're not playing the WARC bands, you're missing a chance to experience the thrill of working a new one several times every month. The little Cushcraft WARC dipole is all you need to get started. The newer Force 12 Antennas work on 12 and 17 with a couple dB of gain as well. Each month, we will publish top ten lists for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, 160 meters, RTTY and band-countries. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

73, John



Cover Story and Editor's Rambling

Bob Farkaly, K9RHY

Was Gus REALLY on Bouvet??

Some months ago I wrote about the antics of the infamous “phony-baloney” DXpeditioner, Romeo Stepanenko, aka Roman Vega, P5RS7, UB5RR, 3W3RR, XYØRR, 1SØRR, etc. The research I did started a thought process about other famous DXpeditioners, including Don Miller, W9WNV, Dick McKercher, WØMLY, and Gus Browning, W4BPD. I was personally saddened when Dick (who I had the good fortune to meet several times—we all called Dick “Womly”) and Gus (who I never met but to whose DX Bulletin I faithfully subscribed) became Silent Keys. These gentlemen were highly respected and truly Supermen during the “Golden Age” of DXing.

Both Dick and Gus were prolific reporters, with Gus sending dispatches to Wayne Green at *73 Magazine* and Dick to *CQ Magazine*, who both dutifully serialized and published their writings once a month. WØMLY was best known for his DXpeditions to the African “Terrible ‘T’s” (TJ, TL, TN, TR, TT and TZ) while Gus seemed to show up just about everywhere with operations from exotic places like Tromelin Island, Bertaut and Blenheim Reefs (there’s a germ of an idea for another story), Bhutan, Sikkim, Tibet, Yemen, Afghanistan and many others. But the “Big Enchilada” was (IMHO) Gus’ operation from Bouvet Island in 1962.

In a moment I’m going to quote Gus as he chronicled his Bouvet expedition in the October and November, 1967 issues of *73 Magazine*. But the reason for all this was to see if I could find a crumb of additional evidence that Gus was **really there**! Romeo made me a skeptic, to say nothing of the logistical complexity of mounting a DXpedition to Bouvet (or Heard Island or Peter the First Island). I have an old friend who operated from both Heard Island and Peter the First and his stories and pictures are more like a major military operation than a casual trip. So how did Gus do it—and did he REALLY do it? Read on.

To RADIO K9RHY Confirming 2 way
 AM CW SSB QSO of 11-29 1962
 at 2247 GMT. 5-1-9
 UR 3, 7, 14, 21, 28Mc

 COUNTRY BOUVET ISLAND
 By E. C. Atkerson
 Equipment: Collins 75S/3 Receiver / Collins
 32S/1 Xmitter / FM-2 AC and MP-1 Pwr Sup.
 Sponsored by the
 “WORLD RADIO PROPAGATION
 STUDY ASSOCIATION.”
 Trustees:
 E. C. Atkerson, W4ECI ✓
 Gus Browning, W4BPD
 James Long, W4ZRZ
 Walter Wendelken, W3RIS
 Through the Cooperation of ACK RADIO
 SUPPLY CO., Birmingham 5, Ala.

Gus Browning
 VIA “ACK” - W4ECI

“Gus, Part 28” from *73 Magazine*, October 1967

“About the 2nd or 3rd day out from Gough Island, the first iceberg was spotted. Just a cold, white hunk of ice floating in the sea. The first one looked to be about the size of an automobile, and they tell me that only about one fifth of it is above water. The further South we went, the more icebergs were seen. You can be sure that they had their special iceberg spotter sitting on the radar all night long.

That night, I went out on deck as usual and the old Southern Cross was nearly overhead. We were getting there, and the winds had that icy feel when they struck me in the face. The next morning when I went out on deck for my usual look around, the sky was completely overcast and it was downright cold, with a capital “C”. That was when I went back to my little cabin and hauled out a pair of those “long handles” that K8TRW had sent me, and when I went back out on deck, I felt a lot more comfortable.

All during this part of the trip, I spent as much time on the bands as possible to give the fellows a running account of our progress to the island. I think it would make DXpeditions a lot more interesting if every DXpeditioner would do the same thing. This gives the fellows a chance to follow your progress as you get near that rare spot. I suppose this is what you might call part of the “chase:” As you get nearer and nearer to the spot, the fellows will know approximately when they can look for you from the island. This gives them a chance to phone the boss to pull the “I am sick” deal. I think this is much better than just popping up from some spot without warning and making many of the gang miss you, unless they take off three or four days.”



“When we were about 100 miles from Bouvet, the sea was completely covered with ice floes. The little ice breaker just plowed into the floes and broke them up into smaller pieces as we went through. They told me about getting caught in the ice once in March, and had to have an American ice breaker come to their aid and break a path for them to get out.

I think it was the 4th day out that we at last saw Bouvet Island in the distance. I got on the air that night and told the boys that I had at last arrived and hoped to land the next morning, I had found that it was sun-up at about 2 :15 AM (local time, that is) down there. I got into the sack for a short night's rest at about 11 PM. I was too excited to

do more than get an hour or so of sleep before they woke me up to say, "This is it , .. let's go".

Everything was loaded into the big lifeboat, very carefully wrapped in canvas and oil cloths and secured with rope to keep it from sliding all over the boat.

We had found a spot on the map which was on the northwest corner of the island, called "Circumcision Point". Just the right spot for propagation to the USA, Europe, Africa. South America and even some of

Asia. But, the VKs and ZLs were very well shielded by sheer cliffs, both to the south and southeast. This spot was about the size of two city blocks and was well above high tide.

It took about two hours of hard work for us to go the 1000 feet or so from where the ship was anchored to where we wanted to land. The temperature, I estimate, was about 20 degrees and the wind was absolutely murder when it struck me in the face. I had on the following clothing: regular undershorts and shirt, then two pair of those red long insulated underwear, a flannel shirt with long tails , two pair of woolen pants, one pair of regular socks, and then a pair of woolen socks coming about 6 inches above my knees, then a very heavy turtle neck sweater. I also had a wool headpiece covering all but my eyes and a big heavy overcoat and last but not least, a pair of fur-lined gloves coming almost to my elbows.

And I was still cold!

Getting all my stuff ashore was no easy task and to this day I'm surprised we didn't lose some of it in the rough swells which kept hitting us. But we made it. I was at last on Bouvet!!!”

“Gus, Part 29” from 73 Magazine, November 1967

“All the while we were on Bouvet Island, the ice breaker was slowly circling the island, taking pictures and plotting a depth chart of the ocean in the immediate area around the island. They were down there with the idea of looking into the possibilities of finding a place on the island to install a weather station. I am not sure of the exact size of Bouvet Island, but I would estimate it to be about 5 miles on each side, and it is more or less square in shape. The wind seemed to blow all the time from the southeast, and that's where the cold weather came from I suppose. Why anyone would want to possess such a place on this earth is beyond me, unless someday the earth shifts on its axis and Bouvet Island is shifted further north making it a habitable place to live.

Radio conditions were fine almost all the time. The bands went out about 3 AM and would start to open again around 6 AM. But all signals had that far away sound most of the time, with the exception of stations in the southern part of Africa, which was only around 1,500 miles away, making them just the right distance to get their first hop reflection from the Heavyside layer. Oh yes. you should have heard those S-9+ signals from ZS2MI over on Marion Island and the same with signals from the VP8's over on the Falklands, South Georgia, South Shetlands, and the signals from the boys down on Antarctica were "out of this world" - solid S-9+ every time I heard them.



"It's funny how your source of QRM shifts as you travel around in the world. On Bouvet it was the ZS stations and a few VP's and the others on Antarctica. But since there were not too many of these, it was no bother to me unless they were within a few kHz of stations I was in QSO with. Bouvet was just about the most QRM-free spot I have even been. I would say. "

The W's/K's, most of the time, were up around S-8 when the band was open, and it stayed open to W's almost all the time. The W's actually were the QRM makers!

The most difficult places to work were Australia and New Zealand, not because of the distance, but because they were fairly well shielded from the point where I was located on Bouvet. How any VK or ZL ever got a signal through to me seems impossible, since they were on the other side of the straight up and down cliffs. Possibly it was some kind of reflection or back scatter, but I did manage to work a few of them. To the rest, I say. "I'm sorry-but I tried my best to work everyone I could hear."

At the end of the 4th day they told us to be ready to depart the next morning around 10 o'clock. That night I stayed up and never did get in the sack. I did manage to have a few QSO's on 80 meters after all the other bands went dead. But the vertical I used was not made for 80 meters and the SWR was something around 10:1 as near as I could measure. Which made for not too good efficiency on that band and when you consider I was only barefoot all the time, I guess I did OK.

The next morning about 9 o'clock we had our last QSO from Bouvet Island. My stay at Bouvet was not as long as I would have liked it to be, but at least I got there and made almost 5,000 fellows happy by giving them another "new one." It seems absolutely impossible for anyone to go there unless they come across another "ice breaker" to get them there. To charter one of these monsters is out of the question with the normal contributions you receive from the fellows back home. You could probably charter one of these boats but considering the cost of chartering a much smaller boat, I would think it would be something like \$10,000 per day. The price continues while you are on the island operating.

So by doing a little quick figuring, let's say it takes two days from Capetown to get there, plus five days on the island and then 2 days more back to Capetown you will have tied up the ship for seven days \$70,000. We all know that a ham DXpedition can't afford to spend this kind of money just to put one DX spot on the air. "

If you read these "Bouvet Adventures" you are now ready to advance to the mystery and perhaps the truth. Was Gus on Bouvet in 1962? A one-man DXpedition to about the remotest spot on the planet? Where are the pictures? And this was where my skepticism crept in. How could one DXer go on an expedition that would require a team of 25 or 30 hams today, with tons of equipment and an unlimited bankroll?

But, in the words of Hugh Cassidy writing in the *West Coast DX Bulletin*, I like to think of myself as still living in the "Great Days of DXing". One of the "Deserving". A "Believer". And of course a fan of the best bumper sticker in the world: "DX Is".

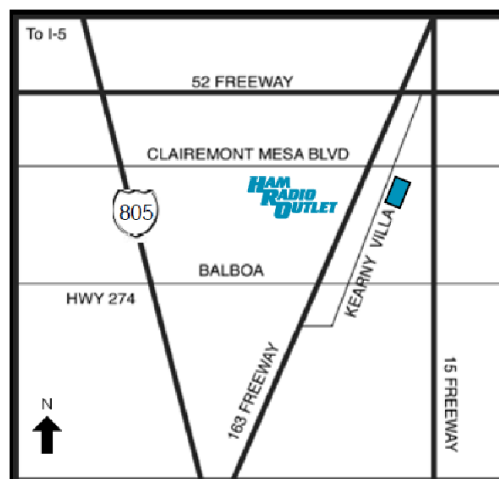
While researching, I ran across the following: "An abandoned lifeboat at world's end Posted: 13 February 2011 in Antarctica" which read (referring to the cover photo on this issue of the SDDXC Bulletin): "The unidentified whaler or ship's lifeboat found abandoned on Bouvet Island on 2 April 1964. The boat bore no identifying marks. There were signs that survivors might have made it to shore, but no trace of them has ever been found."

One of the items referenced was a "copper flotation or buoyancy tank opened out flat for some purpose" found near the boat. Gus had a barrel with him. He also griped about getting a good ground connection because of the ice and snow. Was this part of Gus' ground system? A flattened out piece of copper stuck into the earth might just do the job....it's not like he could run down to the hardware store on Bouvet to purchase a proper ground rod.

The story says the "whaler" or "lifeboat" took him to and from the island. But Gus' narrative doesn't describe any of the other trips that were most likely made between the icebreaker and the island. Did they count the boats before leaving?

The evidence is thin and requires some imagination. But I'm certainly willing to give Gus the benefit of the doubt. IMHO Gus was on Bouvet Island in 1962 and gave many of the Deserving a New One. A perfect ending.

73, Bob



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DX Is!!



Contest Corral

June 2012

HF	VHF+	Contest Title	Phn	CW	Dig	Exchange & Frequencies (MHz)	Sponsor's Web Site	Logs Due
28		Ten-Ten Open Season Jun 2, 0000Z - Jun 3, 2400Z		X		Call, name, S/P/C, member numbers	www.ten-ten.org	15 days
3.5-28		Digifest Jun 2, 0400Z - See website		X		RST and grid square Multiple operating periods.	www.mixw.net/misc/DigiFest/index.html	7 days
14		LZ Open 20 Meter Contest Jun 2, 1100Z - Jun 2, 1500Z		X		6-digit serial and serial from previous QSO	www.lzopen.com	10 days
1.8-28	50, 144	Maritime QSO Party Jun 2, 1200Z - Jun 3, 0300Z	X	X		Maritime county or S/P/C 25 to 50 kHz from band edge.	www.maritimecontestclub.com	1 month
3.5-28		SEANET Contest Jun 2, 1200Z - Jun 3, 1200Z	X	X	X	RS(T), serial CW--3.525, 7.025, 14.025, 21.025, 28.025, SSB--3.540/3.790, 7.090, 14.320, 21.320, 28.320.	2012sea.net	Jul 31
	50	UKSMG Sporadic E Contest Jun 2, 1300Z - Jun 3, 1300Z	X	X	X	RST, member nr, 6-digit grid locator No QSOs below 50.080 or from 50.100-130 MHz.	www.uksmg.org	Jul 1
1.8-28		IARU Region I Field Day Jun 2, 1500Z - Jun 3, 1459Z		X		RST, serial	IARU society websites	
1.8-28		Alabama QSO Party Jun 2, 1600Z - Jun 3, 0400Z	X	X		RS(T) and AL county or S/P/C CW--1.810, 3.545, 7.045, 14.045, 21.045, 28.045; PH--1.865, 7.230, 14.250, 21.300, 28.450.	www.alabamاقsoparty.org	30 days
	50	Six Club Contest Jun 2, 1700Z - Jun 3, 2100Z	X	X	X	Call sign, grid square, member number	www.6mt.com	Jun 22
28		DARC 10 Meter Digital Contest Jun 3, 1100Z - Jun 3, 1700Z		X		RST, serial number	tinyurl.com/3o3kobs	14 days
3.5	50, 144	OK1WC Memorial Contest Jun 4, 1600Z - See website	X	X		RS(T) and serial First through fourth Monday of each month; see website for bands.	www.hamradio.cz/ok1wc	7 days
3.5-28		ARS Spartan Sprint Jun 5, 0200Z - Jun 5, 0400Z		X		RST, S/P/C, and power Monthly on the first Monday evening.	www.arsqr.blogspot.com	2 days
1.8-14		SNS and NS Weekly Sprints Jun 8, 0200Z - Jun 8, 0300Z		X	X	Serial number, name, S/P/C	www.nccsprint.com/rules.html	none
1.8-28		WFF Green Days Jun 9, 0000Z - Jun 10, 2359Z	X	X	X	RS(T) and WFF number if available	www.wff44.org	30 days
3.5-28		DRCG Long Distance Contest Jun 9, 0000Z - See website		X		RST, CQ Zone, and UTC time Multiple operating periods.	www.drcg.de	Aug 1
3.5-28		Australian Shires Contest Jun 9, 0600Z - Jun 10, 0600Z	X	X		RS(T) and VK Shire or CQ Zone	groups.yahoo.com/group/vkshires	Sep 1
14-21		Asia-Pacific Sprint Jun 9, 1100Z - Jun 9, 1300Z		X		RST, serial	jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt	7 days
3.5-28		Portugal Day Jun 9, 1200Z - Jun 10, 1200Z	X	X		RS(T) and serial or district code	portugaldaycontest.rep.pt	Sep 1
3.5-28		GACW WWSA CW DX Contest Jun 9, 1500Z - Jun 10, 1500Z		X		RST, CQ zone	www.wwsatest.org	Jul 30



50	REF DDFM Six Meter Contest Jun 9, 1600Z - Jun 10, 1600Z	X	X	RST, serial number, grid square	concour.s.ref-union.org	15 days
50+	ARRL June VHF QSO Party Jun 9, 1800Z - Jun 11, 0300Z	X	X	Grid square	www.arrl.org/contests	Jul 11
3.5-14	NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint Jun 13, 0030Z - Jun 13, 0230Z	X	X	RST, S/P/C, and NAQCC mbr nr or power Monthly on 2nd Tuesday or 3rd Wednesday local time (alternating).	naqcc.info	4 days
1.8-28	CWops Monthly Mini-CWT Test Jun 13, 1300Z - See website	X	X	Name and member number or S/P/C Multiple operating periods, twice monthly on 2nd and 4th Wed, 18 to 28 kHz above band edge.	www.cwops.org/onair.html	2 days
1.8-28	All-Asian DX Contest Jun 16, 0000Z - Jun 17, 2400Z	X	X	RST, operator age (YL may send 00)	www.jarl.or.jp/english	Jul 31
7	SARL Youth Day Sprint Jun 16, 0800Z - Jun 16, 1000Z	X	X	RS and age	www.sarl.org.za	7 days
1.8	Stew Perry Warmup Contest Jun 16, 1500Z - Jun 17, 1500Z	X	X	4-char grid square	web.jzap.com/k7rat/stew.rules.txt	30 days
1.8-28	QRP ARCI QRP Shootout Jun 16, 1500Z - See website	X	X	Category, ARRL/RAC section or DX See website - CW on Saturday, SSB on Sunday.	www.qrpaci.org/contests	14 days
3.5-28	West Virginia QSO Party Jun 16, 1600Z - Jun 17, 0200Z	X	X	RS(T), WV county or S/P/C CW--35 kHz from band edge, Phone--35 kHz from General/Nov/Tech segments.	www.qsl.net/wvsarc	Jul 20
3.5-28	Kid's Day Jun 16, 1800Z - Jun 16, 2400Z	X	X	Name, age, location, favorite color	www.arrl.org/kids-day	
28	Feld-Hell Field Day Sprint Jun 16, 2000Z - Jun 16, 2200Z	X	X	RST, S/P/C, Feld-Hell member nr Monthly on 3rd Saturday.	www.feldhellclub.org	7 days
50	SMIRK QSO Party Jun 16, 0000Z - Jun 17, 2359Z	X	X	Grid square and member number	www.smirk.org	Aug 1
50	WAB 50 MHz Phone Jun 17, 0900Z - Jun 17, 1500Z	X	X	RS, serial, WAB square or DXCC entity	www.worked-all-britain.co.uk	21 days
1.8-28	Run For the Bacon Jun 18, 0200Z - Jun 18, 0400Z	X	X	RST, S/P/C, Flying Pig nr or power Monthly on 3rd Sunday night (local).	www.fpqrp.org	
1.8	SARL Top Band QSO Party Jun 21, 0000Z - Jun 25, 0000Z	X	X	RS(T) and province or country	www.sarl.org.za	7 days
3.5-14	NAQCC Milliwatt Sprint Jun 21, 0030Z - Jun 21, 0230Z	X	X	RST, S/P/C, and NAQCC mbr nr or power	naqcc.info	4 days
5.7G	Worldwide EME Contest Jun 23, 0000Z - Jun 24, 2400Z	X	X	TMO/RS(T) and "R"	www.dubus.org	Jun 25
1.8-28	His Majesty King of Spain Jun 23, 1200Z - Jun 24, 1200Z	X	X	RS, serial or EA province	www.ure.es	Jul 15
1.8-28	Marconi Memorial HF Contest Jun 23, 1400Z - Jun 24, 1400Z	X	X	RST and serial number	www.arifano.it/contest_marconi.htm	30 days
1.8-28 50+	ARRL Field Day Jun 23, 1800Z - Jun 24, 2100Z	X	X	Category, ARRL/RAC section or DX	www.arrl.org/contests	Jul 24